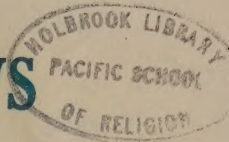


JAPAN CHRISTIAN ACTIVITY NEWS



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"EYES OF FAITH AND HANDS THAT SERVE"

"Eyes of Faith and Hands That Serve--the Rediscovery of Humanity," will be the theme of the Christian Pavilion at Expo '70, to be held in Osaka. Sub-themes are 1) Harmony by Reconciliation and 2) Progress by Creation.

In a statement of the intention of the theme, the Committee on the Theme says, "The Christian Pavilion will be the 'eyes' for the whole exposition--for that huge 'body' which will show the progress and harmony of mankind. The eyes are eyes of faith, eyes of hope, eyes of love. It will also symbolize Christianity as 'the hands' that serve and pray for mankind--hands lifted in prayer for justice, hands extended in service, hands joined in reconciliation."

On August 10, the Christian Pavilion Committee announced that the co-directors of the Pavilion will be Shusaku Endo and Hiroo Sakata. Mr. Endo is a well-known novelist who is deeply concerned with the problem of Catholicism and the Japanese environment, a problem he has dealt with, from his early writings, such as Shiroi Hito ("White Man") and Kiiroi Hito ("Yellow Man") to his recent book, Chinmoku ("Silence"). Mr. Endo also writes novels that merely entertain his readers, as does Graham Greene.

Mr. Sakata's talents range from novels to poetry. He writes many radio and TV scenarios and also publishes poetry. His short novels have appeared in several magazines.

U. S. AND JAPANESE CHURCH REPRESENTATIVES DISCUSS POLITICAL RESPONSIBILITIES

A small but important consultation on the political responsibilities of the churches, will be a highlight of fall activities of the NCC.

The consultation, to be held at Tozanso, Gotemba, from the morning of September 17 until noon, September 20, is on the theme, "The Common Contribution of the Churches in the U.S.A. and Japan to Peace in Asia."

The thirty delegates, from Japan and abroad, will include not only church leaders but also specialists in politics, economics and international affairs. Dr. John C. Smith, one of the newly elected presidents of the World Council of Churches, and chairman of the United Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A., will be a delegate, as will the Rev. Masahisa Suzuki, Moderator of The United Church of Christ in Japan (Kyodan).

The consultation will discuss papers presenting different views on "The World in 1968" and "Security in Asia." Two important topics will be "Mutual Security Pacts" and "Development." Papers have been received on "Various American Attitudes," by Dr. Robert S. Bilheimer, "Development in Asia," by Dr. Kikuo Yamaoka, and "Security," by Yutaka Shishido.

The consultation is sponsored jointly by the Committee on International and Social Concerns of the Japan NCC and the NCCC-USA Committee on International Affairs.

CHURCHES MARK ANNIVERSARY OF WAR'S END WITH PRAYER SERVICE

An early morning service of prayer, remembering those who died in war and resolving that such a history shall not be repeated, was held at Chidori-ga-fuchi Cemetery, Tokyo, from 6:00 to 7:00 a.m. on August 15, the anniversary of the end of the Pacific War. This year the meeting, which in recent years had been held by The United Church of Christ churches in Tokyo, was sponsored jointly with the National Christian Council. Rev. Masahisa Suzuki, Moderator of the United Church, and Dr. In Ha Lee, Interim General Secretary of the NCC, talked.

About 250 Christians attended the meeting. Following it they participated in a silent march to Yasukuni Shrine, to express opposition to the proposed nationalization of this Shrine.

Many services were held throughout the day at Chidori-ga-fuchi Cemetery by different religious groups. It is the only national memorial cemetery for the war dead and has no special religious affiliation but is equally available to all groups.

SECRETARIAT SET UP FOR STUDY OF ATHEISM

Bishop Laurence S. Nagai of Urawa will head a new Institute to study atheism in Japan. The purpose is to deepen efforts to understand atheism and open lines of communication and dialogue with atheists.

The local secretariat will provide facts, suggestions and practical solutions to the present-day problem of practical and theoretical unbelief and the process of secularization in its various aspects and causes. The Secretariat for Non-Believers in Rome will act as a center for promoting and coordinating research, experience, pastoral-theological reflections and active interchange among the various groups within the Church.

Other members of the Urawa Institute include Prof. M. Yanase and Rev. Gino Piovesana, S. J., both of Sophia University, and Prof. M. Matsumoto of Keio University, with additional persons to be coopted as the need arises. The first step planned by the Secretariat will call for communication with intellectuals--artists, writers, educators--and all engaged in forming public opinion.

(Tosei News)

JBS AIMS AT JAPAN-BASED SUPPORT

The Japan Bible Society, established 80 years ago and sustained over the years with the help of contributions from abroad, will become financially independent as of November, turning for support and cooperation to regional groups in Japan organized on an ecumenical basis, according to Rev. Shunzo Miyauchi, general secretary.

Mr. Miyauchi recently reported that in the last year more than 80 regional Japan Bible Society groups have been organized, drawing upon pastors and laymen of many of the more than 100 Protestant denominations active in Japan. In some areas, Catholic priests are participating.

The forging of new links between JBS and the churches is largely the result of an intensive campaign of personal visitation by Mr. Miyauchi and other JBS staff members, which has taken them into all parts of Japan, to meet with a wide range of individuals and groups, including those in education and social work as well as direct evangelism, and YMCA and YWCA as well as churches--all of whom draw on the services of JBS and share the purpose of broadening the knowledge and use of the Scriptures.

Future plans call for selecting particular areas each year for concentrated programs making use of readers' clubs, movies, lectures, and research groups.

LUTHERANS FROM MANY COUNTRIES WILL DISCUSS COOPERATION IN JAPAN

Delegates from several European and North American Lutheran churches will come to Japan for a meeting of the Japan Lutheran Committee for Cooperative Mission, October 9-10, at the Kansai Academy House, Chairman of the committee is Dr. David L. Vitner, of the American Lutheran Church.

Churches participating in the committee, which coordinates the use of funds and missionary personnel, are the Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church, the Lutheran Evangelical Association of Finland, the Danish Missionary Society, the American Lutheran Church, and the Lutheran Church in America. The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod, Christian Mission to Buddhists (Scandinavian), North German Mission, and German Japan Mission will send observers.

JCM cooperation is presently focused in help for schools and social work in Japan, The Lutheran Theological Seminary, and the support of a missionary in Brazil. The JCM was organized in 1967 at a meeting in Baden, Austria. This will be its first meeting in Japan.

Previous to the JMC meeting, there will be a consultation on the role of the missionary. Participants will be members of the JCM executive committee, representatives from overseas churches, educational and social work institutions in Japan, and also from the Norwegian Lutheran Mission, the Lutheran Brethren Church, and the Lutheran Free Church of Norway, which are not members of JCM.

Lutheran work in Japan began in 1892, with the arrival of missionaries of The Lutheran Church in America, followed, in 1900, by the Lutheran Evangelical Association of Finland. Eight other Lutheran bodies, including those from several European countries, entered after World War II. Lutheran churches number 241 in all, with a total membership of 20,722, 193 pastors, 290 missionaries. There are two seminaries, four Lutheran senior and senior high schools and seven social welfare institutions.

KENNETH HEIM IS NEW FCM PRESIDENT

The Fellowship of Christian Missionaries, an inclusive fellowship of persons from abroad related to Christian work in Japan, has elected as its new president the Rev. Kenneth E. Heim, representative-in-Japan of the American Episcopal Church to the Nihon Seikokai, the independent Anglican Church in Japan.

Other officers named at the Summer Conference at Kurohime Chateau were vice president: Rev. Peter Willms, Brethren in Christ; secretary: Mrs. Eloise Dale, The Lutheran Church in America and Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church; treasurer: Rev. Glenn Gano, field secretary, American Baptist Foreign Missionary Society.

Elected as editor of the JAPAN CHRISTIAN QUARTERLY is Rev. Beverley D. Tucker, Sapporo, of the Nihon Seikokai. The FCM is sponsor of the JCQ, an independent, ecumenical journal of the thought and opinion of Japanese and non-Japanese on Christianity's mission in Japan, published by Kyobunkwan.

MIXED GROUP STUDIES VISITATION EVANGELISM

A 72-year old Episcopal Bishop, several high school students, a number of farmers, factory workers and housewives, and a judge, a railroad worker and a college professor all had one thing in common when they met at Myogi Spa, August 20-23. They had all come for the annual Training Conference in Visitation Evangelism sponsored by the NCC committee responsible for this program.

Most of the two hundred persons who attended were ordinary church members who, as volunteers in their own churches, spend their free time inviting their non-Christian friends to church and encouraging the catechumen. Many pastors participated, too.

Testimonies from the experiences of these laymen were a highlight of the conference. Lectures were given by Prof. Kyohei Minaga, Tokyo Union Theological Seminary, and by other pastors and committee members.

JAPANESE RELIGIONS, July, 1968, Vol. 5, No. 3, published by NCC Center for the Study of Japanese Religions, Doshisha University, Kyoto, Japan. (2-year subscription--4 copies--¥1000 or \$3.50).

"The Source of Energy for Missionary Activities," Masatoshi Doi

"Japanese Religiosity as Experience," Joseph J. Spae

"Christianity and Buddhism Centering Around Science and Nihilism," Masao Abe

"On the Doctrine of Soka Gakkai," Norbert Hans Klein.

NEW APPOINTMENTS:

At the WCC General Assembly in Uppsala, Rev. Masahisa Suzuki, Moderator of the Kyodan, was elected a member of Central Committee.

The Joint Conference of the World Association for Christian Broadcasting and the Co-ordinating Committee for Christian Broadcasting met at Oslo in June and formed a new organization, the Association for Christian Communication. Mr. Matthew S. Ogawa, General Director of AVACO, was elected to be one of the four vice-chairmen. Also, Rev. Kiyoshi Ii of the Kyodan was elected to the Central Committee.

NOTICE OF NEW PRICE

The Japan Christian Activity News announces new subscription prices for overseas effective with the November 10 issue. The new prices will be: Sea-mail \$2.50, Air-mail \$4.00.

Renewals received before November 10 will be accepted at the old rates.